Delegation of Financial Powers Rules, the Ministries/Departments have powers to provide telephones to the officers in the offices. No limit on number of telephone calls can be prescribed on the office telephones as the same are used in public interest. STD facility on office telephone is allowed to Joint Secretary and above level officers. However the Ministries/Departments are required to take suitable action to control expenditure on office telephone keeping in view the austerity measures.

Transfer of Staff in State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

1707. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of transfer applications of award staff received by State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur on medical ground from different Zones of Jaipur, Bikaner and Sikar between 1st January, 1997 to 31st December, 2001 year-wise;

(b) the applications considered on merit and employees transferred showing SC/ST separately in (a) above;

(c) by when action on remaining will be taken; and

(d) the total transfers made from 1st Janaury, 1996 to date on request without medical ground and husband/wife not working in other States under Central/State Government offices and Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As per information received from State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, the details of

transfer applications of award staff received by the bank on medical ground from different Zones of Jaipur, Bikaner and Sikar between 1st January, 1997 to 31st December, 2001 year-wise are as under:

Year	No. application received for transfer
1997	17
1998	7
1999	13
2000	8
2001	2
TOTAL	47

(b) 12 applications (including 2 applications of SC/ST employees) were considered on merit.

(c) All deserving cases have already been considered.

(d) 875 transfer were made from 1.1.1996 to date on request without medical grounds including four spouse transfer where husband and wife are not working in Central/State Government Department.

Provision of Agricultural Loans by Banks

†1708. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks in the country are not showing much interest in giving loans in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of loans taken by farmers for agriculture in rural areas during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.